

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of providing access control for user terminals which access a computer network enabling exchange of information via a private access node to which said terminals are connected and an access server, the method comprising: temporarily storing a multimedia data stream received from said computer network and addressed to a user terminal in response to an access request from said user terminal in order to perform filtering on said multimedia data stream, said filtering authorizing or blocking transmission of said multimedia data stream to said terminal as a function of particular criteria applied to the multimedia data stream received at said private access node, and

~~wherein if it is determined as a result of said filtering that said multimedia data stream received from said computer network is not to be transmitted to said terminal, said multimedia data stream is retained for comparison with a subsequent multimedia data stream to accelerate said filtering in the case of identical data~~

performing signature analysis for at least temporarily blocking transmission of said multimedia data stream received from said network to the user terminal if said multimedia data stream incorporates a signature characteristic of restricted signaling rights.

2. (Previously Presented) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein said multimedia data stream received from said computer network is stored temporarily before it is transmitted to said user terminal depending on results of said filtering.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein transfer of said multimedia data stream received from said computer network to a user terminal is temporarily delayed pending determination of conformance of said multimedia data stream which has been received with particular standards and then transmitted to said terminal if conformance is found.

5. (Currently Amended) The method claimed in claim 4, wherein temporarily delayed data relating to said multimedia data stream stored in the determination of conformance is retained to enable a further check in the event of non-conformance, either in respect of data received on detection of non-conformance, in which case the multimedia data stream that transmits it from said computer network is interrupted, or in respect of all data of the multimedia data stream received, without said multimedia data stream being interrupted.

6. (Previously Presented) The method claimed in claim 4, wherein data for which non-conformance has been detected in a received multimedia data stream is retained to enable interruption of a multimedia data stream subsequently received before complete analysis of the

data that said multimedia data stream transmits if said data is detected again in said multimedia data stream subsequently received.

7. (Previously Presented) The method claimed in claim 1, further comprising counting, for control purposes, the number of time that data of a particular content is received, if said content is found in said multimedia data stream which is temporarily stored, after it has been received from said computer network in at least one data stream addressed to a particular terminal.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The method claimed in claim 2, further comprising performing an identifier search analysis on said multimedia data stream addressed to a user terminal to authorize transmission of said multimedia data stream to said terminal if an identifier is found in the multimedia data stream addressed to said terminal.

10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for providing access control for user terminals which access a computer network enabling exchange of information via a private access node to which said terminals are connected and a service provider, organized to authorize or block transmission of said data stream to said terminals the apparatus comprising:

a storage unit for temporarily storing a multimedia data stream received from said computer network and addressed to a user terminal in response to an access request from said user terminal,

a control logic unit for filtering said multimedia data stream stored in said storage unit, said filtering authorizing or blocking transmission of said multimedia data stream to said terminal as a function of particular criteria applied to said multimedia data stream received at said private access node, ~~wherein if it is determined as a result of said filtering that said multimedia data stream received from said computer network is not to be transmitted to said terminal, said multimedia data stream is retained for comparison with subsequent multimedia data stream to accelerate said filtering in the case of identical data~~ and performing signature analysis for at least temporarily blocking transmission of said multimedia data stream received from said network to the user terminal if said multimedia data stream incorporates a signature characteristic of restricted signaling rights.